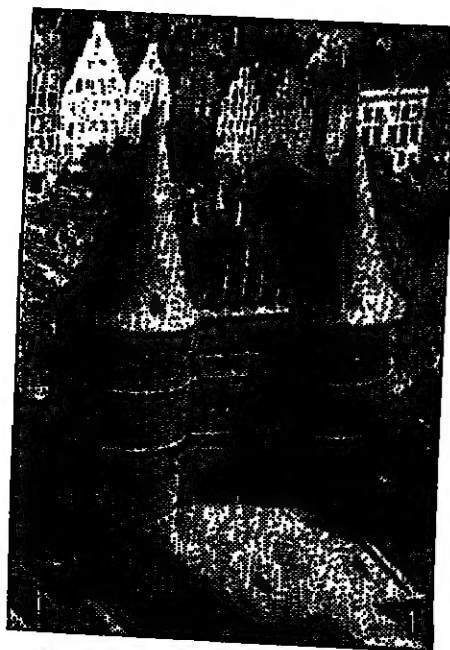


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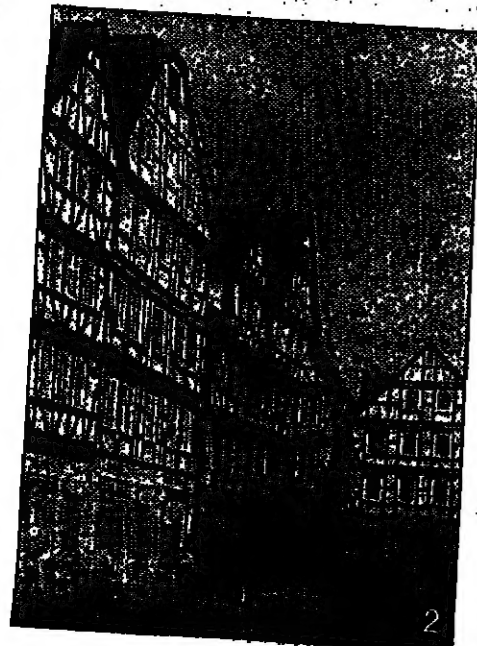


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The German Tribune

Bonn, 20 March 1983
Twenty-second year - No. 1077 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Kohl intent on occupying 'the middle ground'

DER TAGES SPIEGEL

Words often lose their meaning in politics, politics being what it is. Sometimes phrases emerge which have to be taken at nearer to face value.

The expression, "political middle ground", was used by Chancellor Kohl in an election slogan. It was used to sting out of the accusation that Kohl/Genscher government is a nest of right wingers.

Political middle ground" has virtually become part of Chancellor Kohl's political programme. It is intended to make it clear where the coalition stands in the political spectrum. It represents a denial that the government will take an extreme line, particularly in foreign policy, where it wants to proceed carefully.

This is important because of the nature of decisions still to be made in the field of security. Controversies have not just because the election is over. It prevents any tension Bonn will most care in Ostpolitik and Westpolitik.

This is not only because of the continued promises by the government but also to counter accusations that it will increase political tension to emerge in Central Europe.

Bonn's new government will have to make it clear that it is open to further cooperation with the GDR and with the Eastern countries in general.

Bonn may well come across similar tests for such cooperation, with the GDR. The GDR is also worried about post-war strains which might hamper cooperation with the Federal Republic, particularly in the economic field. It will be interested in reaching speedier agreement with its neighbour so that "last the winter" in case new tensions were to emerge.

Bonn government will have to make this out soon. The time left for preliminary measures in East-West relations is short: the question of stationing missiles will be coming to a head in autumn.

There is now no doubt that both in the field of home policy and foreign policy, Kohl government would prefer the missiles not to be stationed.

After the Nato double-decision over missiles and negotiation does not look promising, the Kohl government is also seeking a compromise solution.

This week, Italy's Foreign Minister, Amintore Colombo, put forward in Washington the European desire for such a compromise.

He emphasised that he was speaking on behalf of all those countries planning

to station the missiles, i.e. Britain, Italy, and the Federal Republic of Germany.

However, it is precisely this compromise will cause trouble for the German government.

For many, such a compromise solution will mean negotiations leading to a certain reduction of the Soviet missile potential threatening Europe and a postponement, if not stop to armament in the West.

However, the compromise solution regarded as reasonable by the Nato is one in which although the Soviet weapon systems are reduced number of medium-range weapons planned for Europe will be reduced in number but eventually deployed.

At present there are no signs that the Soviet Union would be willing to accept such a compromise.

It is only then willing to reduce its medium-range missile potential if the West agree to completely renounce further armament.

This could be classified as a Soviet-style "zero option".

Recently, it has also become apparent that the Soviet Union is considering including a whole series of other security arrangements as conditions for their willingness to cut down its arms build-up.

This would increase the number of topics under discussion in negotiations and even raise the time factor involved, possibly a fact of which the Soviet Union is aware.

For although Moscow may have realised that it has not been able to directly influence the opinion of German voters by intervening in the election campaign, it may now wish to wait and see if the western governments in fact have the nerve to continue armament.

If this is the case things are pre-planned to politically come to a head between the East and the West in autumn.

This is beyond doubt a dangerous negotiating concept.

The Soviets would therefore not regard the renunciation of the "zero option" by the West as an opportunity to seek realistic negotiation solutions but take advantage of the situation to increase pressure.

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Getting down to details

Gaston Thorn, President of the EEC Commission, welcomed to Bonn by Chancellor Kohl. The meeting was to lay groundwork for the meeting this month in Brussels of the European Council. (Photo: dpa)

This could lead to compulsive reactions on both sides.

Under such circumstances, the ability of the German government to influence the course of events could be extremely limited.

At present, it would not be advisable for the Federal Republic to try and emphasise the extent of its influence on the negotiations between the two superpowers, for this may lead to it being put under pressure.

For this reason, Bonn will want to leave most of the responsibility up to the superpowers.

It will not be easy to maintain this course since the debate on the missile question will definitely continue at home and the government will be required to provide answers.

This course can only be taken if it is convincingly linked to confidence in American negotiating activities in Geneva.

This represents a new responsibility for the government in Washington.

It would be dangerous to sit back now that an apparently pro-American government has been elected in Bonn.

Washington must show that Bonn's confidence is justified by clearly demonstrating that if negotiations should fail, it has done its utmost to guarantee.

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Soviet Union takes a harder line

Moscow says it will be forced to move medium-range missiles closer to the United States if cruise missiles are deployed in central Europe.

The Kremlin realises that President Reagan's position has been strengthened by the conservative election win in the Federal of Germany. And it intends taking a harder line.

This sounds threatening. Aro party leader Yuri Andropov and his military advisors toying with the idea of a new Cuba crisis?

This is hardly imaginable, but they are clearly flexing their muscles. The campaign against the USA can be expected to escalate.

The Soviets are hoping to gain concessions from those who are most frightened.

Proposals to include the Baltic Sea in a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe, as put forward by Soviet disarmament expert General Nikola Gjervov on Swedish TV, must be seen within this context.

He referred to the possibility of withdrawing the six Soviet nuclear submarines which are claimed to be stationed in this area.

And yet it is an open secret that the submarines can be easily tracked down by Western defence systems in these relatively shallow waters.

This means that in an emergency they would have to withdraw fast, anyway, to avoid being destroyed.

The latest words of praise for the Greens in the Federal Republic reveal that the Kremlin still hopes, with the help of the peace movements in West Germany, to achieve its aims.

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■ THE ELECTION

Voting patterns indicate swing was not so great

The general election is being described as the largest shift of voters in 25 years. It might seem to be, but the truth is not so spectacular.

Polling results, in fact, fell within the normal voting patterns.

There is a rumour of conservative voters. In 1957, the conservatives claimed 42.7 per cent of those eligible to vote. That bloc has not changed since.

Special factors such as the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961, the ossification of the political system (Grand Coalition in 1969) and controversial chancellorship candidates (Strauss in 1980) did little more than prevent the potential followers from actually voting conservative.

But when this type of factor does not exist, the conservatives manage to rally all their followers.

In view of this situation, the CDU/CSU did not even need to capture new potential voters after the shift of government last autumn. Their campaign was therefore directed at rallying their existing followers to the greatest possible extent.

There was no need for any careful selection of campaign issues nor was there a need for an elaborate strategy.

The style and strategy of the CDU/CSU campaign was confirmed when 18,997,186 voters voted conservative.

This success was made possible by the full exploitation of the CDU/CSU's follower potential. The fact is that the CDU/CSU did not need to capture any new voters.

It therefore follows that the conservative voters potential did not increase on 6 March. There is also nothing to substantiate the wide-spread contention that there is a conservative trend.

The Social Democrats have always been troubled by the problem that the number of classical Social Democratic voters, mostly belonging to organised labour, have never been enough to give them a majority.

The SPD has therefore always had to try and rally additional support — it mostly succeeded.

The Social Democrats thus managed gradually to increase their following. In 1949, their follower potential was about 22.2 per cent of eligible voters. By 1972, this had risen to 41.2 per cent. This doubling of the potential was made possible by the fact that the SPD, through its work in municipal and local politics, had gained the public's confidence and was increasingly regarded as being competent in many political fields.

Plausible programmes and initiatives that coincided with the interests of the people (*Ostpolitik* in 1972) helped the SPD gain majorities in State assemblies and the Bundestag.

But the Social Democrats have been losing ground since 1972. By 1980 their share of eligible voters had dwindled to 37.6 per cent (16 million).

In the elections after the October 1980 national election the party was unable to fully exploit even this shrunken potential. In the Lower Saxony state election the SPD captured only 68 per cent of its potential and, in Hamburg, 72 per cent.

The circumstances under which the change of government last year took place were instrumental in bringing about the SPD's success in Hesse and Bavaria (88 per cent of the potential each) and in Hamburg on 19 December 1982 (94 per cent). The party had hoped that the 6 March national election would at least enable it to hold its 1980 position.

The hopes were dashed. It turned out that the SPD had only about 15 million

followers on 6 March. That is about one-third of the eligible voters.

The SPD is thus back to a share of voters corresponding to the position at the beginning of the 1960s.

This was not due to an abrupt loss of favour with the voters. It was a gradual development that set in close to 15 years ago on the municipal plans.

The reasons for this were:

The loss of the SPD's municipal base (five out of 12 major cities how have conservative mayors), the increasing estrangement between local party organisations and the electorate, the diminishing opportunity for workers to make themselves heard within the party, the SPD's derision of typical middle class values (performance at work, consumer attitudes, etc.) and wrong responses to changes in the structure of voters.

In 1972, 1976 and 1980, these negative trends were offset by the popularity of the incumbent chancellors (Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt).

But this time neither the apparently closed ranks of the SPD after 1 October 1982 nor a good chancellorship candidate were enough to make the voters overlook the deep rift within the party.

The structural crisis of the SPD stripped it of a chance of catching up with the conservatives in the course of the campaign. In fact, the SPD was not even able to fully rally its own supporters.

Even disenchantment with the CDU/CSU campaign did not enable the SPD to get all its backers to the polling stations.

It will never be known whether it is true that 1.6 million SPD followers went to the CDU/CSU on March 6. What is known is that five million eligi-

ble voters made use of their right not to vote. This is typical of the SPD, whose followers have always preferred to abstain rather than switch sides.

The FDP and the Greens were more successful on 6 March in their bid for voters who are not committed to the conservative camp.

The FDP, which has never had a dependable bloc of voters, was able to capture enough non-conservative voters.

Social Democratic hopes of getting the votes of many former social-liberal FDP followers did not materialise. After all, why should a voter who in 1980, 1976 and 1972 opted for the FDP as a watchdog over the SPD cast his ballot for the social democrats in 1983?

The likely explanation is that — like before — many voters again wanted a watchdog, no matter what the policy.

The electorate thus seems to have made the FDP an integral part of federal politics in Germany, regardless of programmes, problems, candidates and party constellations. The FDP's campaign issues played next to no role in this decision.

The Greens were also made an integral part of the German party landscape in the election.

Their surprisingly large follower potential, estimated at 1.8 million eligible voters nationwide, did not come as a surprise. What did come as a surprise was that they managed to convert this potential into votes in the election.

On 19 December 1982, in the Hamburg polling, the full potential of Green followers (about 90,000) was rallied only in the elections to district councils. The simultaneous election to the Hamburg assembly gave the Greens only

some 70,000 votes. But on 6 March the Greens captured 90,000 votes in Hamburg.

The SPD will have to ask whether it drew a clear enough line in its campaign between itself and the Greens. The party had hoped that the Greens half-way in its programmes would capture some environmentalist votes.

The point is that in Hamburg the SPD drew a clear line, 1,600,000 Green voters did not opt for the party on 19 December 1982. Months later, their attitude had changed.

The outcome of the general election has firmly established the Greens as fourth (or third, depending on the looks at it) political force in the Republic of Germany — and applies to all levels of government.

In the major cities, the Greens came from middle class voters and their values can be described as post-materialistic.

The Greens are bound to play a part in municipal elections. The voting turnout is always higher than in national elections.

They barely need to campaign in classical sense because their communications structure and commonly held values are more than posters in rallying voters and getting them into State assemblies and Halls.

The voters opted for a four-party system on 6 March, and the conservative policy and that the existing difficult and the Greens now stand the chance of carving out stable markets and less state.

The FDP's watchdog's role is much less use to that party on municipal levels than it is in national politics.

And the Social Democrats will find it tough time recapturing lost votes as evidenced in the Rhineland-Palatinate election that coincided with the national election.

Manfred G... (Die Zeit, 11 March 1983)

— If for no other reason because of change in generation.

Helmut Kohl will be faced with a coalition of three in forming his government. The warnings from Munich right after the polling station when Franz Josef Strauss said: "Nothing can work without us."

The next days will show whether the CDU will be able to win the coalition negotiations because it is, after all, still a force to be reckoned with and will have to be given its full voice.

There is also the fact that not only in Strauss' own party but in the group in Bonn is a friend of his.

There are those whose sympathy more with Kohl and Genscher. The vote depends on what course of action the government plans.

In his waning years, Adenauer said that it is particularly difficult to form a government after a coalition election success.

Granted, the centre-right government still has many a problem with which in drafting a programme they considered a political risk.

The Social Democrats are no longer the coalition partners as of commerce they never really were) but a united party of factions.

It was Vogel's great achievement to have made the party close ranks.

Continued on page 8

THE ECONOMY

How the government is likely to handle the major questions

The centre-right government in Bonn now has both the time and the political parliamentary majority it needs to implement the economic and social policies it drafted in the autumn. It can do so unhindered by the usual campaign promises because none were made.

Attention in the next few years will be centred on the consolidation of the budget and on putting the social security system on an even keel financially.

The envisaged change in the income tax structure will have to be set aside until the economic situation improves.

Work in the coming legislative period will concentrate on these areas:

Poll: green light for investment

The election victory of the centre-right coalition has relieved businessmen of one major uncertainty. They know now that the next four years will be marked by a free enterprise policy and that the existing difficult and the Greens now stand the chance of carving out stable markets and less state.

This has removed the political reserve much less use to that party on municipal levels than it is in national politics.

There are clear indications that many voters that were placed subject to the election outcome (though naturally without spelling this out) will now be finalised.

Statements to this effect have been made by both a dealer in construction machinery and a car dealer.

One firm of management consultants has half a dozen pending deals that had been tentatively commissioned.

The credit department of a major private bank also reports that business has picked up. And even the *IgEDA* fashion merchant's bank also reports that retailers who had wavered only a few days earlier placed their orders on the day after the polling.

It remains to be seen whether these individual instances or a trend, which statistics on orders will tell the fact is that the examples listed concern primarily medium sized firms whose investments are much more governed by political moves than those of major companies.

The political left, which had spoken of an investment strike during the campaign, is bound to revert to this issue once orders start coming in.

But there is no getting away from the fact that businessmen and the self-employed, who account for only ten per cent of the working population, wanted the government and voted for it as was their good right. It is also their good right to now place the orders which they previously held back due to what they considered a political risk.

This is not so much a matter of boosting the coalition partners as of commercial considerations. This is not only a confirmation but a challenge for the new government.

The beginning of 1984 will bring further tax relief for small and medium businesses.

Said Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff immediately before the election: "Favourable framework conditions — and that includes making

by spending cutbacks. Over a period of several years, spending increases are to be limited to one to two per cent less than the nominal growth of the GNP. This would mean that expenditures in 1984 should amount to about DM260bn. The restriction of spending is to be continued until the structural deficit (in other words that part of the deficit that is unaffected by economic developments) has been removed.

● **Taxation:** There is still an unspent residue of DM4bn available from the increase of VAT. Some of this money is to be used to further reduce taxes that not profit-related. The main beneficiaries are to be small and medium companies. A somewhat smaller portion of this amount is to provide tax relief for so-called "half families" (mostly divorced people) in line with a Constitutional Court ruling. Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg has made it quite clear that any reduction in the income tax rate will be contingent on fiscal development. As a result, this must be seen as an open issue to be dealt with in the years to come.

● **Capital accumulation:** The government intends to waste no time presenting a blueprint for this issue. There is general consensus that the range of subsidised savings provided for under the 3rd Capital Accumulation Act (the so-called DM624 Law) should be extended to include direct capital participation in the employer company. This is to be given priority over the promo-

tion of pure savings accounts. It remains open whether the amount eligible for subsidies will be raised from the present DM624 to DM936. The final decision here will depend on the cost of the scheme to the government.

● **Shorter working lives:** Government plans to provide a legal framework for shorter working lives that would enable the parties to collective bargaining to make a deal on this issue are also part of overall policy. But it should prove difficult to reconcile the blueprints that have become known so far with overall government policy. The legal framework that would enable the parties to collective bargaining to arrive at an agreement on early retirement would have to be drafted in such a way as to put no additional strain on the taxpayer — neither through higher taxes nor through additional contributions to the social insurance funds.

● **Social security pensions:** One of the government's most urgent projects is to hammer out legislation aimed at consolidating the pensions system. Due to high unemployment and low growth rates, the Pension Fund is likely to find itself with a DM7bn deficit in 1984. There is talk of further cutbacks in pensions and an eventual increase of contributions from the working population from 18.5 to 19 per cent. Contributions are already due to rise from 18 to 18.5 per cent as of 1 September 1983. Due to the difficult financial position of the Pension Fund, the redrafting of the pro-

visions for pensions for the next-of-kin of deceased pensioners that must be implemented in 1984 and is therefore known as the "1984 reform" (in line with a Constitutional Court ruling) will bring only minor changes in favour of the insured. It remains open whether the government will implement the so-called "participation model" favoured by all political parties or whether it will seek some other solution. The participation model would provide the insured with a title to his pension. The originally envisaged coupling of the 1984 reform with an improvement in the social security provisions for women (that would regard child-rearing years as paid-up contribution years) will have to be shelved temporarily for reasons of cost.

● **Health insurance:** Due to the additional strain increased contributions to the Pension Fund (possibly unemployment insurance) will cause, Labour Minister Norbert Blum intends to go out of his way to cut back on costs in the health sector. He not only wants to keep health insurance contributions at their present level but actually wants to reduce them to ease the strain social security contributions impose on the workers' pocketbooks. Legislation to limit hospital costs (where the increases have been steepest) could be passed in the course of this year.

● **Housing construction:** The Bonn Housing Ministry will concentrate its efforts on new provisions to promote housing construction through tax relief. The idea is to make private investment in housing construction more attractive and to promote home ownership. Among the more long-term projects in the housing sector are reforms on rent subsidies next year that would mitigate the effects of rising rents.

Jürgen Forster/Hans Barbier (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 March 1983)

Performance of business the crucial factor

good past mistakes — are a must if consumers and investors are to regain their faith in the future; and this, in turn, is a must in overcoming the present crisis."

But will the business community invest? "Election dates are no investment dates," Otto Wolff von Amerongen, president of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHT), said just before the election regarding economic developments this year. We might do well to remember his words.

Even so, there is no denying the already visible upward trends in some sectors of industry (construction, automobiles, machinery). And in other sectors businessmen are looking to the future with more optimism.

The improved predictability of the government's economic policy as a result of the election outcome is bound to make the business community optimistic rather than pessimistic.

But even should the economy get off the ground more swiftly than expected, there still remains a great deal for the new government to do.

The investment-promoting decisions of the past weeks, the start of the budget consolidation — especially by restricting this year's deficit to DM41bn — and the sinking interest rates as a result, coupled with declining oil prices, low

inflation rates and a sound current account are still no reason to go overboard with expectations for the future.

Mass unemployment is still with us and could get worse. Another source of headaches is the straits in which individual branches of industry find themselves — especially steelmakers and shipyards. Both government and industry will have to come up with some imaginative solutions here.

The government's maxim to give priority to individual responsibility and performance over state intervention as demanded by Count Lambsdorff should apply in the future as well.

The outcome of the election has made it clear that the majority of the people go along with the government's theory that "economic growth and new jobs can only come about through thrift and investment, industriousness and efficiency on the part of the citizen at large and the business community." (Gerhard Stoltenberg)

This is a clear rejection of state tutelage.

The electorate has also clearly rejected any kind of demand-side job programmes that would of necessity entail larger deficits, higher taxes and less buying power for the consumer.

The centre-right government is still convinced that "unemployment could be reduced markedly if there were a dependable medium term planning that would make providing more jobs commercially viable and that would improve job creating investment conditions." (Count Lambsdorff)

Reimar Fitzlaff

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 7 March 1983)

(555 Deutsche Zeitung, 10 March 1933)

FLASHBACK

100 years since the death of Karl Marx

For 70 years the grave of Karl Marx and his wife Jenny in the Highgate cemetery in London was covered by a simple stone slab.

In March 1883 only 20 mourners turned up at his funeral to pay their last respects.

A pretty modest tribute to a man who is today regarded as the "father of the world revolution".

Marx was transferred to a more prominent site in the cemetery in 1954; two years later a huge bronze bust of him was placed over the grave.

Khrushchev and Bulganin laid a wreath on his grave in 1956 in honour of the spiritual father of the 1917 October Revolution.

Every time a parade is held in the Red Square in Moscow, larger-than-life portraits of Marx, Engels and Lenin, the forefathers of today's Soviet state, hang resplendent on the front of the GUM department store opposite the VIP platform near Lenin's mausoleum.

During the funeral ceremony 100 years ago, Friedrich Engels, loyal companion, co-author of important works and a "helper in need" to the Marx family, said (then, it sounded exaggerated): "His name will live on throughout the centuries, as will his works".

Today, the teachings of Marx form the ideological basis for over a third of the world's population.

Who would have expected this of the poor German emigré living in London at the end of the 19th century?

Karl Marx died on 14 March, 1883, as a result of a pulmonary abscess. He passed away at the age of 65 while sitting in his favourite armchair.

His body was found by two people who had stood by his side for most of his life: Friedrich Engels and Helene Demuth, known as *Lenchen*, a housekeeper to the Marx family and the mother of his illegitimate son, Henry.

Marx died only 15 months after his wife Jenny and was buried in the same grave. The fact that his final resting place was to be in a cemetery in London, far away from his native country, was symbolic.

Marx spent over half his life in the British capital — altogether 34 years.

It was here that he wrote or conceived his most important works, including *Das Kapital*.

And yet London was never his true home, but more of a place to work, his headquarters.

Marx remained an internationalist, a stateless person; after he had renounced his Prussian citizenship in 1845 and after the British authorities had refused his application for naturalisation in 1874.

London of the 19th century was a melting pot for emigrés of all nationalities and political shades.

First Metternich fled to the British capital in 1848 following the March revolution in Vienna.

Other visitors were the anarchist, Michael Bakunin; the Russian revolutionary, Alexander Herzen; and Wilhelm Liebknecht (father of Karl Liebknecht), who subsequently became a member of the *Reichstag*.

In 1864, Italian freedom-fighter Garibaldi was greeted in a triumphal process-

sion and Lenin was also to spend a great deal of his time in this city.

London was the capital, the fulcrum, of an empire, and at the same time the centre of Britain's industrial strength built on the industrial revolution.

With a population of two-and-a-half million, London was the world's biggest city. The British tolerated the conglomeration of emigrés with a mixture of indifference and arrogance.

Marx, a newcomer himself with no English friends, contemptuously referred to his fellow-sufferers as "the sweepings of many nations" and "emigrant swine".

Even today there is no official compulsory registration for residents in Britain.

As opposed to the strict police surveillance in Berlin, Paris or Brussels, where Marx had been and from where he was expelled, the authorities allowed the "notorious German agitator" to develop the theoretical basis of world revolution.

Karl Marx was born on 3 March, 1818, in the small town of Trier on the Mosel.

He was born into a solid middle-class family. His grandfather was a Rabbi, his father a lawyer in the Prussian administration.

His father later became a convert to Lutheranism and changed his name from Hirschel to Heinrich. The family was well-off. They had a vineyard, a cook and two maids.

At the age of 17, Marx left his town of birth, once a Roman settlement, in 1835 to take up studying law in the university town of Bonn.

His father wanted him to follow in his own footsteps. However, Karl frittered away so much time writing romantic poems and enjoying student life that his father decided to send him to Berlin one year later.

There was more a disciplined atmosphere in the up-and-coming Prussian capital, more conducive to teaching and learning.

In Berlin, Marx became familiar with the basic teachings of Hegel and Feuerbach, which were to be so important for his own theories at a later date. Shortly before he left Berlin, he became engaged to Jenny, the daughter of the Baron of Westphalia. The liberal and intelligent aristocrat was Marx's mentor.

Jenny, who was four years older than Marx himself, had to wait seven years for matrimonial bliss. She was a real companion through life, working for Marx as an unpaid secretary, giving birth to seven of his children and following him during his many moves as an

emigré. She very often went from one pawnshop to the next, and as her family was distantly related to the Scottish clan of the Campbells she was often able to pawn the napkins and damask table-cloths bearing the old coat of arms.

Marx was to suffer all his life from lack of money. Just as he waited, day in, day out, for the world revolution, he always hoped for the miracle of a large inheritance which would save him from his worldly suffering.

If it had not been for his loyal friend, Engels, he would have shared the fate of so many emigrants in London. Engels' financial support spared him squalor and misery.

Engels, the son of a textiles manufacturer, was born in Barmen on 28 November, 1820. In 1842, he was sent to Manchester by his father to take up a commercial apprenticeship.

His father hoped that he would then forget the fancy revolutionary ideas rampant among Germany's youth at the time.

Whereas Marx never stepped foot inside an English factory and had only ever seen a German one while visiting the Karlsbad spa, Engels had gathered practical experience on industrial life.

He had gained an insight into the bitter realities behind the magnificent facade of industrial expansion, whereas Marx remained the theoretician of the proletarian revolution.

Another point of dissimilarity was that Marx had led a "bourgeois" kind of life, a father with children; Engels, on the other hand, remained a life-long bachelor.

He lived together with a girl called Mary who worked in a spinning mill, and after she died with her sister Lizzie.

Only once was Marx unfaithful to his wife (his loyal housekeeper, *Lenchen*, was the third party).

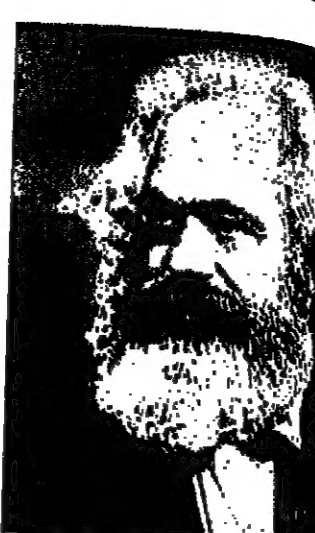
Engels lent a helping hand and paid the maintenance costs for Marx's illegitimate child, Henry, as if it were his own son.

Marx's daughter Eleanor, who was the only child to outlive the father, first heard of the existence of her half-brother on her dying bed.

Marx and Engels together were the intellectual factory which produced the teachings of scientific socialism.

Karl Marx dropped his studies of law in Berlin and became doctor of philosophy in 1841.

In 1842, he took on the job of editor-



Karl Marx ... problems with the

in-chief for the *Rheinische Zeitung* in Cologne. He spent one-and-a-half years in Paris, where he met Heinrich Heine.

After having being expelled from France, he moved to Brussels in February 1845. Industrialisation was in full swing here.

He was already working closely with Engels and in February 1848 the two published a truly historic document: the *Manifesto of the Communist Party*.

The *Manifesto* began with the sentence: "A spectre is haunting Europe, the spectre of Communism".

However, Marx and his friends were constantly haunted by a spectre of a different kind: that of poverty.

Times were particularly hard when he moved to London in 1849. The family's first house in Anderson Road, brought them no luck at all.

After just a few weeks they were forced to move out, mocked by onlookers, as they could not pay the rent.

The bailiff confiscated all worldly goods, including the cradle and the children's toys.

Marx, his wife and their four children (three came later) then moved to a German Hotel in Soho, where the *Phish Restaurant* now stands.

However, they were yet again forced to move out for the same reason: they couldn't pay the rent.

Marx only ever once tried to get a regular job and obtain regular income. His application for a position as secretary at the Great Western Railway in London was turned down because of his illegible handwriting.

This same handwriting was scribbled onto innumerable papers during Marx's regular visits to the British Museum (now the site of the British Library).

After Marx's death, Engels collected all these fragments (sometimes eaten away by mice) and compiled a total of 39 volumes and four supplementary volumes.

The British Museum with its vast reference books and other materials was the source Marx needed to develop his theories on world revolution.

Apart from this it was not far from his home in Dean Street, one of the worst slums of the period.

A commemorative plaque on the street corner of Dean Street and Great Marlborough Street, where Marx lived to adult age, two committed friends.

His four great grandchildren are present as guests of honour during commemorative celebrations held in London in 1968 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Marx's birth.

Not one became a Communist. Wolfgang Knoll, SPD business manager, Peter Glotz and his campaign strategists knew why they tried to keep the Greens below the

five per cent needed for representation in the Bundestag.

Hans-Joachim Vogel and his handful of bright young men can be trusted to succeed in turning the tables on the Greens; and forcing them to come up with a clear *Ja* or *Nein* and thus splitting them.

This is the only course of action open to the SPD if it wants to survive.

As to the change of generation and new political talent: the FDP (which has lost many of its best people) and the Greens; along with the other parties, will have to prove in the 10th Bundestag that they can come up with new people and new ideas.

Hans Heigert
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 March 1983)

TECHNOLOGY

Technocrats peek into the future and come up with some warnings



Morgen

certain that the new technologies will bring about "a decade of upheaval and changes in human and social behaviour patterns."

Service and administration enterprises would be able to employ home-workers to carry out their activities.

"Workers will then only need to come into the office once or twice a week for back-up meetings and to establish contacts." Apart from this, all work could be completed at home.

Experts agree that this is a positive and yet dangerous development. On the one hand, there is an incalculable risk of increased concentration of power and additional control.

On the other, however, there would be an easing-up of rush-hour traffic, which would help future regional planning.

Via computerised network coordination, the areas neglected by the German Federal Railway System, particularly in

peripheral districts, would regain their importance.

Dr Hans-Jürgen von der Heide from the German *Landkreis* also pointed out such advantages.

The rural areas will now have the opportunity to participate in technological progress.

They could benefit from the fact that administrative and economic factors will be decentralised via increased data transport.

However, von der Heide believes that the primary beneficiaries will be the peripheral areas surrounding the built-up conurbations.

According to Klaus Schussmann, there will be an "interceptive line" between the urban core areas and the out-and-out rural areas.

Even the "lead of urban areas over rural districts can be cancelled out via telecommunications."

There will therefore be a growing chance of more balanced regional living conditions.

Whatever happens, Dr Klaus Türke from the Federal Research Institute for Regional Studies and Environmental

Planning in Bonn sees the concentrated conurbations as the big losers in this process.

They would lose most in terms of population and economic power.

Decentralisation and rationalisation will be felt most in insurance and banking centres.

"This is where urban planners must start talking to investors now about who is going to stay and who will be leaving."

Dr Klaus Winckler from the Federation of German Trade Unions, on the other hand, could only offer a gloomy forecast of things to come.

In his opinion, the only ones to gain substantially from the new technologies are the big companies.

Displacement competition will increase and the communication gap between the towns and the rural areas will widen.

According to union estimates, the rationalisation effect will endanger about ten million jobs.

Four million jobs will be "pensioned off" by 1990 alone, says a projection by the Federation.

What is more, the introduction of increased work at home will virtually eliminate labour on a full-time basis.

"There will eventually only be a few regular workers", Winckler states outlining the future situation on the labour market. "The rest will depend on seasonal employment on a day-to-day basis."

Karl Stankiewicz
(Münchener Morgen, 4 March 1983)

On the brink of an Orwellian world

Fears of the future, loss of the individual's creativity, crises, social disruption — these were just a few of the key phrases and discussion points during a conference held in Bonn by the Evangelical Academy Arnoldshausen on the topic "Our Future in a Computerised Society."

George Orwell's *1984* became a vivid reality as 70 scientists, politicians, representatives of industry and journalists tried to at least outline some of the far-reaching implications of radical technological changes.

The final result was skepticism, which was academically formulated in the thesis: "Highly computerised societies are extremely susceptible to interference and vulnerable."

During the conference, frightening examples were put forward to back up this.

Wherever new computer systems and new media knock down national barriers, wherever a "breath-taking process of concentration" leads to a growing number of transnational conglomerates,

On the brink of an Orwellian world

this is where the monitoring systems of national governments start to break down.

The accompanying thesis: "A worldwide informatisation tends to devour its own administrators."

Against this background, discussion centred on the old problem of "controlling the controllers."

Computer criminality in the USA, for example, costs American industry an annual \$100 million.

Authorities helplessly face the fact that computer fans or clever programmers can convert the cheap personal computers available anywhere into terminals which have access to outside data banks.

Two obvious dangers are the intrusion upon one's privacy and clever industrial espionage.

These prospects have also got the military authorities worried. During this conference, for example, it was again confirmed that in 1980 the USA became the "victim" of a supposedly Soviet-led nuclear attack three times within a few months. The reason? The computers went wrong.

As a result, a new programming language, the ADA system, was developed.

Nobody, however, really knows whether the system will function in case of an emergency; such a system can only be simulated.

The discussions participants in Bonn had their doubts: even under normal conditions, the coordination of decisions between the individual Nato military staffs within the computerised Nato system NICS does not appear to be working all that smoothly.

Participants had no intention of becoming modern-day Luddites.

Unfortunately, the analysis of the dangers involved in computerisation could not provide a model for a practical form of crisis management.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 21 February 1983)



The Marx house in Trier, in Rhineland-Palatinate.

(Photo: dpa)

RESEARCH

Mountain-top laser beam probes damage to protective ozone layer

Scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics at the University of Munich are hoping that the flashes of laser light beamed vertically into the sky will provide information on the state of the ozone shield in the earth's atmosphere.

The laser experiments are being carried out on Germany's highest mountain, Zugspitze, in Bavaria.

The light echoes returning to earth will help discover how endangered the layer of ozone is by chemicals emitted into the atmosphere.

Ozone keeps the dangerous section of the sun's ultra-violet rays away from the earth's surface.

Ever since the mid-seventies, scientists have not been able to dispel the suspicion that this protective ozone shield is being chemically destroyed, particularly by fluorinated hydrocarbons contained as propellants in many aerosol cans or emitted as exhaust fumes by supersonic aircraft.

It had become evident that these chemicals, which were considered to be non-combustible, non-toxic and chemically resistant, were being attacked by the energy-rich ultraviolet light.

This leads to the release of chlorine, which can subsequently trigger off a disintegrating chain reaction causing ozone, which contains three atoms of oxygen, to disintegrate into normal two-atom oxygen.



The latter, however, allows the dangerous ultra-violet rays to reach the earth's surface unhindered.

It is precisely this short-wave part of the sun's ultra-violet light which is absorbed by the deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in the stockbreeding nuclei, which can result in changes of the inherent characteristics of virtually all living creatures.

This can lead to skin cancer for humans, disastrous loss of yields in the plant and animal world.

For this reason, the use of such propellants has been banned or its production severely restricted in the USA, Sweden, Norway and Canada.

With the help of the radar-like light-echo system, scientists on the Zugspitze are hoping to clarify the situation.

Every ten minutes, they receive a complete profile of the distribution of ozone at heights of between 10 and 40 kilometres.

The installation's central feature is an examining laser operating on the basis of a mixture of the inert gas xenon and chlorine.

Every second, one hundred flashes of light are beamed up with a capacity of

ten million watts, each lasting twenty billionths of a second.

Together with its intensity, the colour of this laser light is very important.

The wave-length of its ultra-violet light (308 nanometres) was specifically selected so that it would be swallowed up by the ozone.

The greater the amount of light lost as it passes through the ozone layer, the thicker this layer must be.

The laser is designed in such a way as to be able to receive the weak scattered light which returns to earth and evaluate this together with the scattered light from the 338-nanometre primary beam; the light of which is not returned to earth in a weak form but which decreases with the increasing distance of the ozone layer.

An electronic comparison of the measured beam with the primary (reference) beam enables the thickness of the layer of ozone to be ascertained.

A supernova, the explosive death of a distant sun

It was a cold and frosty night in the Spanish Sierra Nevada.

The full moon bathed the white and round cupolas on the 2168-metre high Calar Alto in its wan light.

The two astronomers, Thorsten Neckel and Michael Sarcander, had just made their way to the peak to begin their star-gazing night shift.

The two scientists from Heidelberg were using their computer to try to trace a young 'frog' in the sky.

The automatically-operated telescope, weighing over three tons, smoothly focussed in on the 'tadpole' galaxy in the constellation of Perseus — 150 million light-years away.

This galaxy had been given its nickname by radio astronomers (official classification: NGC 1265).

On the star map charted with the aid of radio waves NGC 1265 looks just like the aforementioned freshwater amphibian.

Out two astronomers were planning to investigate and take a closer look at a few of the stars in this galaxy.

However, this was to be no routine night's work.

Hardly had the measuring instruments tuned in to the focal point of the 2.20 metre reflector than the unexpected occurred.

One of the stars located in the tadpole's 'head' shone brighter than all the billions of stars in all the galaxies put together.

Neckel and Sarcander soon realised that this moon-like night was something special for astronomers.

What they were witnessing on their computer's display screen was 'the abrupt death of a distant star'.

"150 million years ago that sun exploded in NGC 1265", explains Professor Hans Blasaker, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Heidelberg and at the same time head of the Sierra team.

"The result was a supernova", he added.

Both light beams are picked up by 60-centimetre reflecting telescopes channelled into the appropriate instruments.

Up to now, measurements of the ozone layer has only been possible on a snapshot basis, making it difficult to obtain meaningful findings on the fact that the concentration of ozone varies depending on the time of day and the fluctuation of summer and winter.

The precision laser, which costs DM500,000, on the other hand, will provide a complete picture of the ozone content on the higher reaches of the earth's atmosphere.

Nevertheless, it would do little to change Germany's decision-making on the possibility of "involvement by venting this danger to the earth's protective shield."

Even if the danger of the ozone layer is definitely confirmed, countermeasures would take time to become effective.

As the earth's atmosphere is so slow to mix thoroughly, it takes years before the fluorinated hydrocarbons released reach the stratosphere and begin to attack the ozone layer.

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LITERATURE

The late Arthur Koestler: personal daring in a faint-hearted age

Other publications then followed: *The Yogi and the Commissar*, "Pfaff ins Blaue" (literally: Arrow into Space) and "Der Gott, der keiner war" (The God who was no God, — literally), which he wrote together with Spencer, Silone and others.

In his books, Koestler revealed a fine sense of psychological empathy, in presenting the temptation of Communism and its destructive pseudo-logic.

After the war, in which Koestler was an internee, then French Foreign Legionary and, finally, a member of the British Army, he moved to England.

Henceforth, he wrote only in the English language.

He appeared at numerous international conferences, undaunted in the passion of his convictions.

His memorable appearance at the Berlin Conference for Cultural Freedom in 1950, for example, will go down in history.

No matter how underhanded the slander by the Soviet Union and its supporters in the West, Koestler was not a man to be intimidated.

And yet he always remained a true companion to his former comrades, who had it upon hard times through no fault of their own.

He too had suffered in poverty, and now that he had improved his financial position proved to be an exemplary friend in need.

Many young writers and scientists were helped by his words of advice, his stimulation and material, as well as spiritual support.

The seventies saw Koestler return to

The Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation has chosen the following motto as its theme for 1983: resistance at the right time.

The Society's German coordination committee explains why it believes this motto to be just as relevant in 1983 as it was in 1933:

"The right time for resistance activities was long before 1933, during a period in which every individual could freely voice his opinion in the then-existing constitutional state."

The politically motivated murders committed during the Weimar period and the accompanying circumstances, partly a result of the lax action taken by legal bodies; the lack of a national consensus in regard to these political methods; all these factors were signs of warning.

Why did so few realise this fact? Resistance was extremely difficult between 1933 and 1945.

Hannah Arendt was baffled and alarmed at explanations put forward by German intellectuals after 1933 to justify the fact that many had come to an arrangement "with Hitler".

The submissive proclamations by German universities are shameful.

Why such undignified subservience? It cannot be solely be explained by referring to the reign of terror at the time.

After 1945, we no longer spoke of resistance but of our duty to oppose certain trends or tendencies which are capable of endangering the basic democratic consensus in our society, even if they at present seem relatively harmless.

In 1938 he left the party and, now a legitimate emigrant, personally settled the score with the Communists in a still missing to back up the explanation.

As Hans Blasaker points out: "The Calar Alto measurements were another few pieces in the puzzle."

Astronomers in Spain had (two) exploded in NGC 1265", explains Professor Hans Blasaker, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Heidelberg and at the same time head of the Sierra team.

"The result was a supernova", he added.

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ten million watts, each lasting twenty billionths of a second.

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Arthur Koestler... no illusions about the frailty of man. (Photo: dpa)

In summer last year took on the office of chairman of the controversial suicide association "Exit" and wrote the foreword to a brochure issued by the organisation containing advice on how to commit suicide.

His friends were convinced that Koestler would follow in the footsteps of Hemingway and Montherlant, and they realised that it would be pointless to try and prevent him from doing so by force of worldly and religious arguments.

Their memories of the writer will probably be tinged with bitterness.

Yet other memories of a good friend and a brilliant *Jahrhundertgeist* will prevail.

His ideas and arguments have been of great advantage literature and science alike, and his own personal daring and moral courage a unique example in an age of faint-heartedness and conformity.

Günther Zehm
(Die Welt, 4 March 1983)

He delved into the secret — imaginary or real — world of parapsychology and the "sciences of the psi".

Up to the very end, he remained curious, "always on God's trail".

"He harboured no illusions as to mankind's transitory and frail nature, and was determined ever to expose himself to the danger of mental immaturity."

There's simply so much we cannot understand.

There are growing signs of a lack of compromise and of people being purely interested in maintaining their own opinion.

Is this of any use?

If the fear of impending dangers drives us out of the sphere of rational thought into the realm of irrationality, the worst is to be expected.

It is our duty to counteract such tendencies at the right time, that means now!

During this week of brotherliness, the Huber-Rosenzweig medal will be awarded to Helene Jacobs.

She once described her commitment to helping those persecuted by the Nazi regime as follows:

"I was able to take in a few of the the Jews myself and help others to get identity cards or food ration-cards."

This was just a drop in the ocean compared to the magnitude of the disaster.

These activities led to my imprisonment between 1943 and 1945.

A search triggered off by anonymous informers uncovered a further two relief operations in which I was involved.

The special court set up in the district court building in Berlin felt that two years in prison was a fair sentence.

After the war was over, my first intention was to re-establish the legal system which has been destroyed.

I started studying Law and devoted

Continued on page 12

Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

These figures compiled over the years are invaluable both for planning journeys to distant countries and for scientific research.

Basic facts and figures for every country in the world form a preface to the tables. The emphasis is on the country's natural statistics, on climate, population, trade and transport.

The guides are handy in size and flexibly bound, indispensable for daily use in commerce, industry and the travel trade.

Two volumes are already in print. They are: North and South America, 172 pp., DM 22.80; Asia/Australia, 240 pp., DM 24.80.

They will be followed in March 1983 by: Africa, 115 pp., DM 19.80; Europe/USSR, 190 pp., DM 24.80.

Look it up in Brockhaus

Clashing views over the role of technology

Bremen computer scientist Professor Klaus Haefner says that Germany's educational system has failed to meet the challenge of computer technology. In *Die neue Bildungskrise* (The New Crisis in Education), published by Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, he suggests what should be done. The author of this article, Sigrid Müller, a Hamburg University lecturer, says the book is not critical enough of either technology or society.

A future society dominated by computer technology would need to develop an elitist education system, says Professor Klaus Haefner.

He says highly talented children must be allowed to develop unhindered by the less talented.

In *Die neue Bildungskrise*, Professor Haefner writes that education policy must be aimed at sparing man from having to compete with technology. Technology is almost always better at thinking processes.

Professor Haefner develops the idea of two utopian societies existing in 1997: the "homuter society" (derived from the Latin word *homo* for man and computer) and the "alternative human society".

"As opposed to the homuter society that is aimed at a harmonious symbiosis of man and electronic data technology and in which man withdraws into thinking in emotional and all-encompassing categories, leaving the cognitive functions to computer technology, the alternative human society reserves the cognitive-intellectual processing of information for itself."

If the homuter society is to materialise by 1997, profits from automated production processes would have to be redistributed, working times would have to be cut down drastically and a special levy would have to be imposed on automated processes and used to help social hardship cases.

Direct democracy is a homuter society can be achieved relatively soon by using the data processing media. Polling and opinion surveys of any kind could be carried out via a monitoring screen. This could be controlled through individual identification numbers that would ensure one vote only for every eligible voter.

In addition, test questions would ensure that only qualified citizens could

participate in the polling. Every citizen would be able to qualify through his personal information system, provided he knows how to use it.

Haefner's ideas of society's development after the introduction of electronic information systems are totally devoid of a sound social analysis or theory.

Having succumbed to the fascination of new technologies, he depicts a world in which all problems can be solved by technology.

For him, technology is free of moral values. "If man fails in establishing a desirable homuter society the failure will not be a failure of technology. It will be due to the fact that some countries did not succeed in enabling man to cope with the leisure time and freedom suddenly available to him."

People in the work process who become redundant due to automation must be made to realise that work is no longer the main purpose of life. Education must place greater emphasis on the emotional side of man.

If our youth is to be prepared for a homuter society, schools must rid themselves of rational-intellectual subjects in favour of "social, philosophical and religious subjects, i.e. the humanities in general."

Handling information technology should be practised as early as elementary school. Children must learn about the functioning, development and possibilities of the new media; and "their non-rational capabilities must be promoted more heavily."

"New areas of spiritual and emotional understanding and action must be found that will make it possible for many decades and centuries to come to do and experience the things that are beyond the capabilities of modern data technology."

As Professor Haefner sees it, our educational policy must make it one of its foremost aims to spare man from competing with technology which is almost invariably superior to man in the cognitive sector.

One exception here is the so-called "incalculable people" who would spearhead the homuter society.

To give this elite a chance, we must abandon "today's homogeneity of education as early as in secondary schooling. Instead, we must clearly differentiate between the elite and others and

promote the elite. We must ensure that highly talented schoolchildren can develop unhindered by those who are less or differently qualified."

Professor Haefner's recommendations for an educational policy are of a general nature. He operates on the assumption of a multi-tier school system with today's range of subjects that have been augmented by information technology and complemented by such learning endeavours as sensuality and emotionality.

This leaves a number of questions open. Are six-year-olds to be taught with the help of a computer that the environment can seemingly be programmed? Are youngsters in the lower grades of secondary school to learn about communication and codetermination primarily through information technology? Is there to be a choice between "hard" universities for the elite and "soft" ones that would provide a "humane" climate? Can information technology replace man's thinking in all areas? Does emotion then remain as the last domain of mankind?

Perhaps we should use our ability to think and act in complex categories before computer technology has made this ability atrophy. Perhaps we should use this ability before the "incalculable people" have made an incalculable decision about us.

Sigrid Müller
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt,
6 March 1983)

Weimar...

Continued from page 11
myself to considering how the community could help in material terms to at least satisfy some of the demands made by those who have survived the Nazi inferno.

I channelled my services into the representation activities.

Although the results were not satisfactory, an attempt was made to admit the injustices committed.

Gradually, I saw that people began to realise the self-destructive nature of anti-semitism.

Both the Catholic and Protestant churches started to seriously discuss the traditional Christian hostility towards the Jews as a problem relating to their own existence.

However, this still hasn't been generally acknowledged.

I must accept the fact that my help is but a minute contribution."

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt,
6 March 1983)

Computers: not enough classes

There are few opportunities for pupils not in the last year to learn computer science and data processing, according to Bonn Education Ministry surveys.

The lessons that were available usually offered in conjunction with other subjects such as mathematics.

Berlin schools have computer for less senior pupils as an individual subject, but in most cases it is optional.

In the states of the Federal Republic, courses are still being developed. Equipment is still being obtained.

In Baden-Württemberg, more than 40 per cent of secondary schools have computers. The figure for other states is 25 per cent.

Bavarian schools have been teaching computer science in the 10th and 11th grades since the 1981/82 school year. It has also been available as an optional subject since the 1980/81 school year.

The subject is taught in 1,045 Bavarian schools; 499 schools are adequately equipped. They are part of pilot projects under the Bonn Education Ministry.

Berlin has had blueprints for teaching of computer science since 1975, and starting from next year secondary and 40 comprehensive schools will be equipped with microcomputers.

Half of Hesse schools now have access to computer installations. Lower Saxony is running trials in the upper grades of 100 secondary schools. 40 per cent of the *Gymnasium* type secondary schools now have electronic data processing equipment.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, guidelines for this type of instruction have been in existence since 1975. 10 per cent of secondary schools have data processing installations in the upper grades. Rhineland-Palatinate has had computer science since 1978. In Schleswig-Holstein, more than half of the state's 100 *Gymnasien* schools are equipped with microcomputers. In a drive from 1971 to 1980, the Bonn Education Ministry has set 54 pilot projects at a cost of DM26m.

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt,
6 March 1983)

MEDICINE

Doctors off to a cracking start with kidney stone treatment

method of eliminating kidney stones by shattering them with shock waves has come through trials with a rate of success.

The treatment was developed in Germany. It means that surgery can be avoided.

Professor Christian Chaussy, of Muenster, told a conference that since February 1980, the method had been used on more than 400 patients. The success rate was 90 per cent.

The advantages of the treatment are: less pain, less risk, earlier return to work.

Professor Chaussy said it should be possible to treat between 12,000 and 20,000 people a year this way.

Kidney stones cannot only be painful but also stubborn. Anybody who has a stone once must expect that a second one will be formed eventually.

The relapse rate in untreated patients is 80 per cent, though preventive measures are possible through medication and change in lifestyle.

Latest statistics show that between 10 and 15 per cent of the population in the Western world either has or has had kidney stones.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, each year 120 out of every 100,000 develop their first kidney stone. Men are more prone than women. Children and young people are rarely affected.

In view of the high incidence of kidney stones, it would seem justified to regard this disorder as a scourge similar to diabetes or rheumatism. Professor Richard Hautmann, of Aachen, told the meeting.

Medicine has not yet come up with a conclusive theory that would explain why kidney stones are formed. There are 150 different theories on the subject, most of which have been discarded as unsatisfactory.

It is, however, known that one pre-condition for kidney stones is urine with an excess of stone-forming substances and that this excess results from metabolic disorders.

The physical and chemical processes underlying the development of the crystals that eventually form stones are known. These processes explain how acid stones come into being.

But this says nothing about the formation of the much more frequent variety, that is, oxalate and phosphate stones.

An excess of calcium, oxalate or uric acid in the urine is inadequate as an explanation as are such other frequently mentioned factors as a low volume of urine and changes in this acidity.

There are other risk factors that must be taken into account when attempting to explain the formation of oxalate and phosphate stones, both of which contain calcium. Among these risk factors are age, sex, diet, liquid intake, climate, metabolism disorders and possibly the social group to which a person belongs.

Depending on the chemical composition, kidney stones can develop into several very small or individual large pieces. Particularly large stone specimens fill the whole of the renal pelvis.

Severe kidney colics usually occur only when a small stone gets stuck in the ureter, preventing the passing of urine.

Large, firmly wedged stones usually cause no more than dull pressure in the small of the back. Frequently, they cause no pain at all if the urine flow is unobstructed.

But these stones eventually displace the urine-forming tissue of the kidney, thus preventing the flow of urine. When this happens, the kidney blows up like a balloon and is eventually destroyed.

Some 80 per cent of all kidney stones are passed with the urine. This applies particularly to stones no bigger than 5mm in diameter. Half of these stones stand a good chance of being eliminated naturally.

The passage of stones can be eased through medication. If a stone gets stuck in the ureter, doctors can try to remove it with the help of a loop.

Chemical dissolution through medication is only possible with uric acid stones.

Tough animal experiments have shown that oxalate and phosphate stones can also be dissolved, medicine has not yet come up with drugs without toxic side effects for humans. This precludes the clinical use of these drugs.

These only remedy for stones wedged in the renal pelvis is surgery.

Peter Alken, of Mainz, said at the meeting that modern surgical methods have widened the scope of treatment. In

one of methods, dry ice is used to reduce the kidney temperature to 15 degrees C, when the stone can be removed comfortably.

Another method is to use ultrasonic control devices for the surgery. This makes it easier for the surgeon to pinpoint the stone and prevents the possibility of severing one of the many small kidney arteries. But by far the greatest progress is marked by the shattering of kidney stones into many small particles through electric shock waves. The shock waves are triggered underwater and directed at the stone through a special reflector.

The stone disintegrates into small enough particles to be passed naturally. The kidney itself and the surrounding tissue remain unaffected.

Professor Chaussy said these positive results coupled with more experience with the shock wave device (made by the Dornier aviation company of Friedrichshafen) have prompted doctors to

apply this treatment to patients with infected stones as well.

Since the particles of the smashed stone are passed more easily than originally assumed, doctors are now using this method even with stones bigger than a cherry-stone.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt,
4 March, 1983)

Drug company puts big hopes in little sea fungus

Gambierella alginate

A Swiss drug company is now turning to the sea as a source of new drugs. Company researchers, together with scientists of the Bremerhaven Institute for Marine Biology, are exploring the possibility of obtaining drugs for heart and nervous disorders from marine fungi.

The institute has the world's largest collection of marine fungi and is therefore the obvious place for such research.

A project for deep-freezing fungi cultures has been launched in an effort to avoid the difficult and labour-intensive problem of keeping the fungi alive.

Since the deal was signed, Bremerhaven material has been undergoing exhaustive tests as to its usefulness in the pharmaceuticals industry in laboratories in Switzerland and Italy.

What the researchers are looking for is not only new substances to be used as tranquilisers and for some coronary disorders but also the possible use of marine fungi as antibiotics.

Antibiotics made from land-based fungi are losing their effectiveness in many cases where bacteria have become resistant to them. It is hoped that mari-

ne fungi will yield a drug similar to penicillin but with a wider range of applications.

The Swiss research drive has been conceived as a long-term project that will extend over many years and is hoped to provide conclusive information on the usefulness of marine fungi.

The microscopic fungi — rarely larger than 1mm in diameter — are kept in a nutrient solution into which release certain substances resulting from their metabolism.

These substances are then used for pharmacological test series.

So far, the fungi cultures have yielded little in the way of medically active substances, but the researchers are confident that they will achieve a breakthrough at some point.

They have meanwhile discontinued their research into the primitive, bubble-like single cell fungi and are concentrating at their efforts on the delicate and net-like species of more highly developed fungi.

The Botanical Department of the Institute for Marine Biology has a particular interest in the success of the research project now in progress because it is to receive a share of the earnings should the project prove commercially viable.

Much of the money would then be used to ensure the future of the world's largest collection of marine fungi (Kul-

turensammlung mariner Pilze Bremerhaven, KMPB) which includes 300 primitive and 10,000 higher species.

The Swiss company has taken the precautionary measure of obtaining sole rights for the commercial exploitation of the cultures.

The raw material provided by the Institute has been processed to a high degree of purity, meaning that the organisms contain no alien matter such as bacteria, protozoa, algae and viruses.

Before concluding the deal with the Swiss company, the Bremerhaven fungi cultures were used solely for non-purpose-oriented basic research.

The Institute has been engaged in ecological and taxonomical research since 1966. In addition, it supplies scientific institutions throughout the world with cultures of marine fungi.

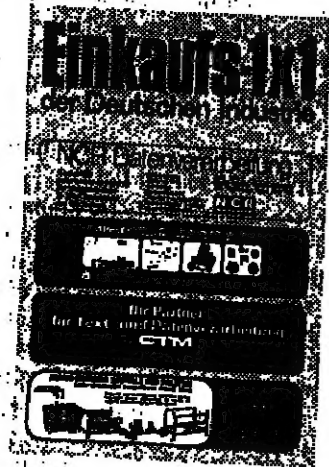
Despite the international reputation of KMPB, the interest in it was long limited to a very small circle of highly specialised scientists — possibly due to the fact that this type of research is relatively new, having begun around the turn of the century.

Some scientists deplore the fact that the practical application of the Bremerhaven cultures is being explored by a foreign rather than a German company. It appears that word of the importance of the Bremerhaven collection has not yet got around in Germany. In any event, Bonn has so far refused to come up with the funds needed to establish a fungi bank that would be kept in a frozen state at —160 degrees C, thus preserving it for posterity.

The need for such a bank is due to the fact that marine fungi can be kept

Continued on page 14

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Six years jail for mother who shot in vengeance

Köln: Stadt-Anzeiger

A Lübeck court has sentenced Marianne Bachmeier, 32, to a six-year prison term for manslaughter. She had been charged with the courtroom shooting of Klaus Grabowski, 35, a convicted sex offender who allegedly killed her 7-year-old daughter Anna after sexually abusing her.

The presiding judge said he was convinced that the accused had acted deliberately and that she was not mentally unbalanced on the day she shot Grabowski.

The defence has announced its intention to appeal.

The court, under Presiding Judge Peter Bassenge, accepted the arguments of both the public prosecutor and the two court-appointed experts, Günther Ritzel and Elisabeth Müller-Lückhann.

The sentence, however, fell short of the eight years demanded by the prosecution. The court also turned down the prosecution's motion that Marianne Bachmeier be taken into custody. She is to remain free pending the outcome of the appeal.

Judge Bassenge held that Marianne Bachmeier had been out of custody since last summer and that there was no reason to assume that she would attempt to leave the jurisdiction of the court.

Judge Bassenge: "The accused had been charged with murder and nevertheless made herself available for the ordeal of the long trial after her release from custody."

Some murmurs of dissatisfaction

were heard from the public when the sentence they considered too lenient was passed.

Dozens of people had been waiting in vain for hours in the cold and drizzly morning, hoping to get access to the overcrowded courtroom.

It was not until two hours after being sentenced that Marianne Bachmeier, who that day wore black pants and a plain white sweater, left the court building through a back door, accompanied by her lawyers and police.

Numerous press photographers and TV cameramen had gathered outside the court building, but were kept away from Mrs Bachmeier.

The court, in its summation, adopted the prosecution's argument that Marianne Bachmeier had shot Grabowski deliberately. But it saw no evidence that the killing was premeditated before 6 March 1981, the day it occurred.

That was the third day of the trial of Klaus Grabowski, who was accused of having strangled Anna Bachmeier.

It was on that day that Marianne Bachmeier decided to kill Grabowski. The decision was made before she saw him in the courtroom," Judge Bassenge said.

Substantiated by the statements of Marianne Bachmeier and witnesses, the court reconstructed the shooting as follows: Before that day's court proceedings in the Grabowski case began, Marianne Bachmeier overheard in a corridor that Grabowski intended to slander her dead daughter and herself in the courtroom. She was carrying a loaded pistol in her handbag, and it was at that

point — before laying eyes on Grabowski — that she cocked the weapon. Without a moment's hesitation, she later fired eight shots at Grabowski.

"The shots were fired immediately after she entered the courtroom — with great concentration, as evidenced by their being dead on target," Judge Bassenge said.

The court did not accept Marianne Bachmeier's subsequent explanation that it was not until she saw Grabowski's broad back that she decided to kill him in a sort of emotional frenzy.

The court held that this was contrary to the statement she herself — as a witness at the time — made to a judge immediately after she had shot Grabowski. She told the judge: "I wanted to shoot him in the face."

Seen objectively, the court held, Grabowski was unsuspecting and defenceless at the time of the shooting. But subjectively this was not so. "It has not been proven that the accused (Bachmeier) was aware of the victim's being unsuspecting and defenceless."

The court thus went along with the experts' opinion and the prosecution's line of argument.

Immediately before the shooting, Marianne Bachmeier had looked at a photograph of her daughter which so heightened her frenzied state of mind that she acted without being aware of the victim's defencelessness.

The court ruled that the accused was fully accountable for her action. But a number of mitigating circumstances were taken into account.

Judge Bassenge: "Grabowski had strangled Anna, the person who was closest to Marianne Bachmeier, whose life had been marked by a series of disappointments."

The court's actions made it clear that mistakes made by the judiciary in the Grabowski case were not to be swept under the carpet. In fact, many of these mistakes were listed among the mitigat-



Marianne Bachmeier... shot sex offender eight times.

ing circumstances in the court's decision in the Bachmeier case.

Among them was the pressure on Grabowski, inadequate checks by the Schleswig-Holstein judges on the fact that no expert opinion had been obtained before Grabowski's hormone treatment for his sexual

deviance. "Anna would not have been had these mistakes not been made," the court stated unequivocally. But no reason to drop the charges against Grabowski.

Judge Bassenge told Marianne Bachmeier exactly how much of her sentence she was likely to have to serve. She was to be deducted from her sentence at least one-third of her sentence can be remitted on appeal. She would thus have to serve two years.

Dieter (Köln: Stadt-Anzeiger, 10 March 1981)

MODERN LIVING

A new soft approach to first-time shoplifters



Young people... shoplifters.

low and again, when the pocket-money runs out, many a young person of rock music has a dip into the shelves and wanders off with the number hidden beneath his coat.

Then often happens is something the shoplifter never really thought of: the store detective calls the police and, finally, a summons to appear in court.

The whole business can turn a young person into a juvenile delinquent, though this typical first crime need not necessarily signify a departure from the straight and narrow.

A private initiative in Mönchengladbach has for over a year now been taking interest in such cases and now published its first report.

The project, which is called "Stop", is financially backed by the North-Westphalian Ministry of Justice, and the culprit with a second offence of avoiding punishment.

Before the project took off the chairman of "Stop", Gerd Kirchoff puts it, "We don't want to get into real trouble with the law just because of a bit of shoplifting."

Before the project took off the chairman of "Stop", Gerd Kirchoff, the public prosecutor's office in Mönchengladbach, had dropped criminal proceedings in any single case.

This is partly due to the tendency of legal authorities to give criminal law aspects priority to those of educational principles.

Since the project began, however, there has been a special agreement

between the project group and the authorities.

The police agree to get in touch with the youth welfare department first before taking up criminal proceedings.

The public prosecutors then wait one month for a report by the group on whether the young person in question is "actively repentant" or whether criminal proceedings should be continued.

In 109 out of 139 cases, the advice centre recommended exemption from criminal punishment. Half of these recommendations were accepted.

The idea behind the project was brought over to Germany from the United States by the criminologist Kirchoff.

He then managed to find 14 volunteers willing to work on an honorary basis, whom he trained for the job during evening courses.

Their main task is to discuss the matter with the parents so as to discover any educational measures which may be of help.

Homeless are getting younger

West Germany's homeless are becoming younger and younger each year. The average age has dropped by 15 years over the past few years to between 25 and 30. One in twenty "gentlemen of the road" is in fact a "lady," usually girls who are still minors.

Professor Ursula Adams, who lectures juvenile and family law at the Catholic Fachhochschule in Paderborn, has for some time been assessing the situation of the homeless.

This winter, over 100,000 men and women have had nowhere to live. In statistical terms, there was only one place to sleep for five homeless.

As Kirchoff points out, talking alone is not enough. The shoplifters must be encouraged to "atone" for their crime — "just as a football player who has committed a foul offers his fellow-player his hand in friendship."

The shoplifter should be taken along to the scene of the crime to talk to the shop assistants, who very often have to pay for the stolen goods themselves.

"The young shoplifter suddenly realises that he is not dealing with an anonymous department store but with real people," says Kirchoff.

This is something a shoplifter never gives much thought to. The project group advisory team also talks to the managers so as to clear up the impression that this is just an attempt to give youngsters a "free hand", at least first-time round.

The Mönchengladbach project was supported by DM261,000 provided by the Jugendmarke foundation. This money is intended to last at least three years.

In the meantime, plans have been considered to extend this system to youngsters caught driving without a licence or fare dodgers.

dpa (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 7 March 1981)

Sea fungus

Continued from page 13

for limited periods only. Kept at room temperature they need a great deal of costly and labour-intensive care which has forced the institute to destroy some of its cultures.

But the institute was recently commissioned to carry out research into the possibility of deep-freeze storage of marine fungi.

The project, which is subsidised by Bonn's "Verein für wissenschaftliche Zusammenarbeit mit der Gesellschaft für Biotechnologische Forschung" and the German Collection of Micro-organisms (DSMZ) of Brunswick.

The researchers are now testing the most economical conservation methods by freezing fungi cultures at temperatures of -180°C. To this end, the Bremen-Hüven Institute has been equipped with a deep-freeze installation operating on liquid nitrogen.

It is only natural that the metabolism of the fungi stops at this temperature, enabling the researchers to fall back on unchanged comparative material that can be kept in small ampoules. Initial results are encouraging.

What is still lacking is a secured future for the Bremen-Hüven collection. One solution would be to transfer the whole culture collection to DSMZ in a frozen state.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 March 1981)

A former Iranian diplomat who is related by marriage to Ayatollah Khomeini has been sentenced to three years jail by a Düsseldorf court on an opium smuggling charge. Sadegh Tabatabai, 39, was however not present to hear the decision. He had flown back to Iran.

Once a diplomat always a diplomat?

The dispute before a Düsseldorf court over whether the Iranian citizen Sadegh Tabatabai, 39, (who is charged with smuggling several pounds of opium into Germany) enjoys diplomatic immunity and is therefore safe from prosecution is increasingly resembling a farce. But drug smuggling is too serious a matter to be seen in a farcical light.

The affair goes back to 8 January when Tabatabai arrived at Düsseldorf airport carrying 17 kilos of opium in his luggage. He had no plausible explanation for the opium except to say that it was an old Persian home remedy for colds.

The excuse was so thin as to suggest that he either couldn't think of a better one or that he thought very little of the intelligence of German customs officers.

Tabatabai was taken into custody and charged. But the Bonn Foreign Office was uneasy about the affair and went to great lengths to get its old acquaintance off the hook.

Tabatabai not only has excellent contacts with German politicians and diplomats but also has a couple of good deeds to his credit.

Diplomat on drug charge flees back to Iran



Sadegh Tabatabai... excellent contacts.

When Ayatollah Khomeini came to power, Tabatabai not only became government spokesman and deputy prime minister of Iran but also wielded great influence with the Ayatollah.

He was a frequent visitor to Bonn where he played a major role in German-Iranian relations, negotiating

primarily with Hans-Jürgen Wiese, Ki and Foreign Minister Hans-Jürgen Genscher.

Tabatabai was also instrumental in negotiating the release of the German hostages held in Tehran a few years ago.

But his assignments as a diplomat and envoy also had their shady side. The many arms deals he is said to have clinched, Tabatabai, who was married in Germany, is married to a man.

All this, however, is just gone to the Düsseldorf court. For Judge Strauss, Tabatabai is simply a man who has smuggled opium into the country and thus run afoul of the law.

The assurances he subsequently received from the Bonn Foreign Office and from Tehran that Tabatabai was a mission as a special envoy to judge unimpressed.

The court showed itself and gratifyingly independent of which seems to have been put under pressure by Tehran.

But there is no getting away from the fact that the court's determination to make Tabatabai stand trial could be a diplomatic turbulence.

It is up to the German diplomatic to prevent this. The means they use to be compatible with German law are they in this case?

Sten (Deutsches Allgemeines, 10 March 1981)

Partial ban on gambling addiction study

Pathological Game of Chance," which he has completed for the University of Göttingen.

Due to a temporary injunction obtained by the gambling machine industry from the district court in Cologne, only certain sections of the thesis are free to be published.

However, even they make it clear that playing the gambling game is more than just passing the time.

According to Meyer's calculations, the industry pocketed gross earnings of DM800m in 1980, well above the DM500m raked in by the casinos.

Meyer is convinced that at least 500,000 of the seven million or so West Germans who use the 160,000 gambling machines in West Germany must be categorised as "addicts".

He reached this conclusion after three years of research in Göttingen, using survey questionnaires to analyse a total of 400 "chronic gamblers". Meyer confirmed that this group suf-

fered from the same problems as other addiction groups: loss of control after beginning to gamble and the inability to stop gambling or to avoid going into amusement halls.

Taking up the case example of a 45-year-old secondary-school teacher, who a few months back set up a gambler's self-help group in Lübeck, Meyer points out some of the economic, social and psychological consequences.

"I started playing the machines about 12 years ago," says the teacher. "It was only now and again to begin with and then more and more regularly. After a while, I became really hooked. Up to now, I've lost at least DM150,000 in various amusement halls and I've got heavy debts."

After his marriage broke up — according to Meyer another result of the gambling addiction — he was no longer able to keep away from the machines after school was over.

The five other members of his self-help group — all from different social strata — had trouble with money and subsequently problems with the family and their closest friends.

This teacher now hopes that the group will provide him with the support he needs to help himself from his ruinous vice.

dpa (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 March 1981)

Music makers face the naked truth

Frankfurter Rundschau

The plot is pretty basic and the only thing which causes trouble is the background music.

We refer here to the production of soft-core and hard-core blue movies.

The problem is that the organisation responsible for adding the sound-track to these films, the Society for the Rights of Musical Presentation and Mechanical Duplication (GEMA), would like to receive flat-rate payments.

However, many blue-film producers refuse to pay for the musical accompaniment of their cinema and home movies.

In a legal dispute before the 4th Provincial High Court and Civil Court of Appeal in Hamm, GEMA's hopes of obtaining such fees would seem to be gradually disappearing.

The next stage is the Federal Supreme Court, which will have to lend its legal ear to the sound of blue music.

The court in Hamm came to the conclusion that the background music to the blue films on the whole consists of trivial tonal sequences, plonking and bits of music, all of which cannot be classified as dancing or light music.

This means that GEMA's claim that these are protected musical works cannot be legally upheld.

According to the Hamm court the adding of a sound-track to a blue movie cannot be compared with public presentation of dancing or light music.

The official verdict read as follows: "There is indeed a substantial difference between the blue-movie audience and those persons who visit other musical events. The former are primarily interested in the pictorial material, the noises in the background being of purely secondary importance."

GEMA would have to prove copyright in each individual case, an expensive and most complicated task.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 February 1981)

Drink causes problems at work

About five per cent of all employees in Germany suffer from alcohol-related illnesses.

The head office of the Anti-Addiction Association in Hamburg, says that special advisory groups should be set up in large and medium-sized firms, because of increasing problems involving alcohol and work.

There has not yet been sufficient research on whether this is due to increased mechanisation and monotonous work conditions.

According to the association, the per capita alcohol consumption figure is the fourth highest in the world. In 1981, statistics reveal that every West German citizen drank about 12.4 litres of pure alcohol.

Men are three times as likely to have problems as women.

dpa (General-Anzeiger Bonn, 3 March 1981)